

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: 2-18-03

Division: Public Works

Bulk Item: Yes ☒ No ☐

Department: Engineering

AGENDA ITEM WORDING: Approval to close two roads in the Dove Creek conservation area, Harris Ocean Park, Tavernier

ITEM BACKGROUND: A request was received from the County's Land Steward, Laurie McHargue, to close the referenced locations due to illegal dumping and misuse of the property. The area is an environmentally sensitive area.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION: None

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES: N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval as stated above, specifically the end of Dove Creek Drive, and a driveway near lots 25-27, Block 6 on Caribbean Avenue.

TOTAL COST: \$500.00

BUDGETED: Yes ☒ NO ☐
Gas Tax Funds

Cost to County: \$500.00

REVENUE PRODUCING: YES ☐ NO ☒ AMOUNT PER MONTH _____ YEAR _____

APPROVED BY: County Atty. _____ OMB/Purchasing _____ Risk Management _____

Item Prepared by: David S. Koppel, P.E., County Engineer

DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL: Dent Pierce 2/4/03
Dent Pierce, Division Director


DOCUMENTATION: Included ☒ To Follow _____ Not Required _____

DISPOSITION: _____

AGENDA ITEM # D26

MEMORANDUM

TO: Laurie McHargue, Ph.D.
Monroe County Land Steward

FROM: David S. Koppel 
County Engineer

DATE: August 14, 2002

RE: Road Closure
Dove Creek Dr. & Caribbean Ave.
Harris Ocean Park, Tavernier

We have reviewed your report and request to close two roads into the Dove Creek conservation area. As a result, we would support your recommendation to prohibit vehicular access into the area. Please agenda this item for BOCC consideration at the next appropriate meeting. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call.

DSK/jl
RdClosureDoveCrDrCaribbeanAve.DOC

Cc: Dent Pierce

Memorandum

To: Dave Koppel, County Engineer
From: Laurie McHargue, Ph.D., Monroe County Land Steward
Date: 31 July 2002
Re: Road closure into Dove Creek conservation area

This memo and the accompanying materials are for your evaluation of the feasibility of closing vehicular access into the Dove Creek conservation area. This is a large area of public lands surrounding Dove Creek, much of which is owned by the Land Authority.

In response to complaints of inappropriate and illegal activities along an undeveloped stretch of Dove Creek Drive, I inspected the area to assess the feasibility of closing to vehicular access the two roads that run into the area. The specific complaints of the resident was solid waste dumping, ATV and other vehicle use, and noisy activities by groups of teens on the undeveloped portion of Dove Creek Drive that parallels Caribbean Avenue. These activities were conducted both during day and nighttime hours. Over the years the Monroe County Sheriff was called on many occasions to respond to the residents' concerns. Attached is the strip map showing the portion of Dove Creek Drive I am proposing be closed to vehicular access, along with an aerial photo and photos of the impacts to the area. Please note that on the aerial photograph, the street labeled "Dove Creek Drive" is actually Caribbean Avenue. Dove Creek Drive is the faint dirt track that runs roughly parallel to Caribbean Avenue. Purchase offers were made by the Monroe County Land Authority for the properties along the undeveloped portion of Dove Creek Drive, and all but 15 out of 38 lots (61%) were acquired. Owners of the 15 lots either declined to sell, or could not sell due to title problems. Because the area is environmentally sensitive with both native upland and wetland plant communities, the likelihood of being able to develop these lots is low.

On both the strip map and aerial photo I have indicated with yellow highlight the locations I propose to block with bollards spaced so as to permit foot or bicycle access, but exclude ATVs, cars, and trucks. The first pair of photographs shows the two proposed locations for access control. Other photos show some of the solid waste dumping in the conservation area, and the damage to vegetation and the substrate by vehicles.

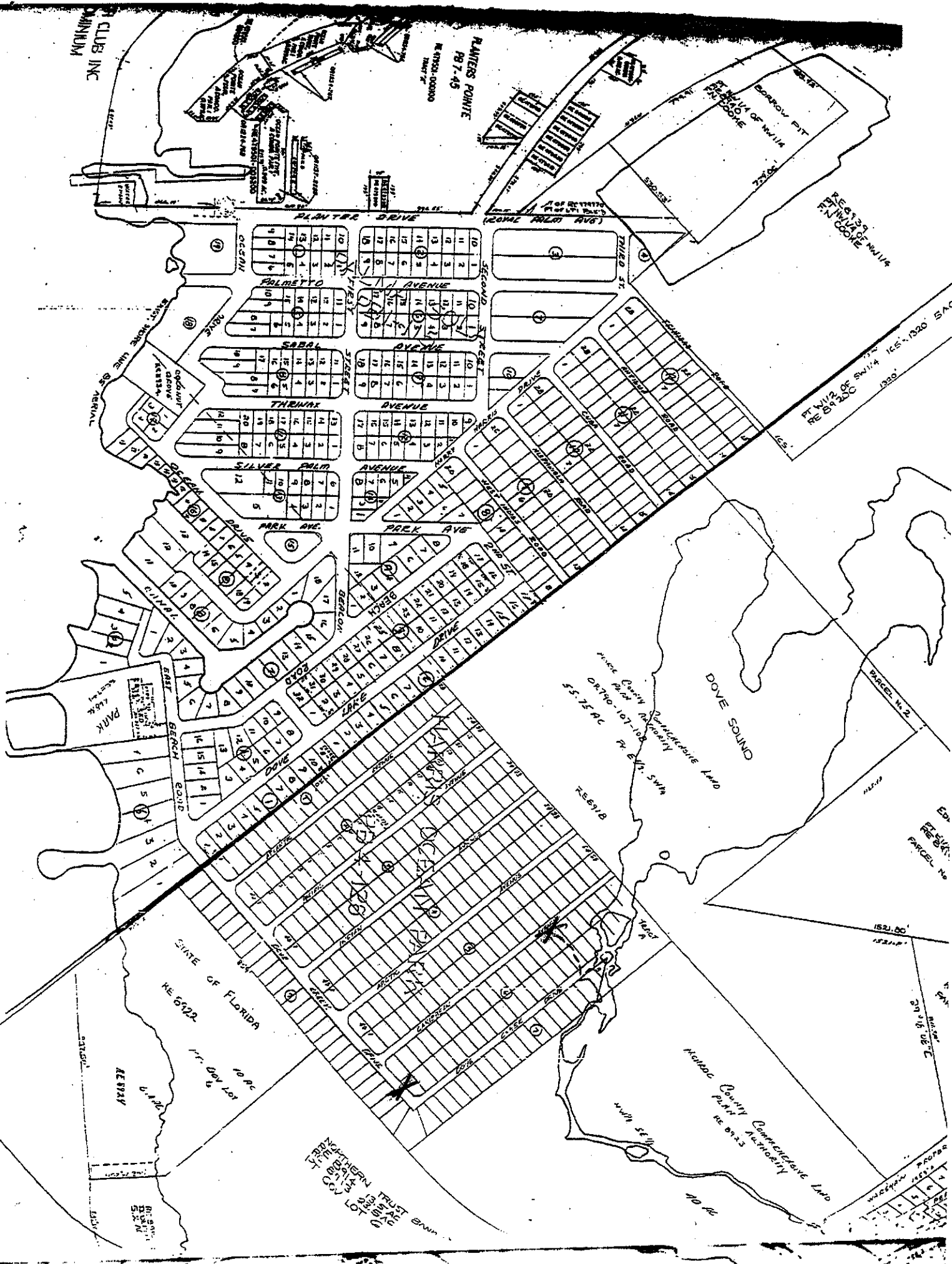
July 31, 2002

The area along Dove Creek Drive transitions from hardwood hammock to buttonwood/salt marsh associations and mangroves along the margin of Dove Creek. It is a large, intact, important conservation area. Excluding vehicles will prevent further dumping, allow the area to recover, and curtail the activities that were the cause of the original complaints.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at x2521.

cc. T. McGarry, Growth Management

M. Rosch, Land Authority

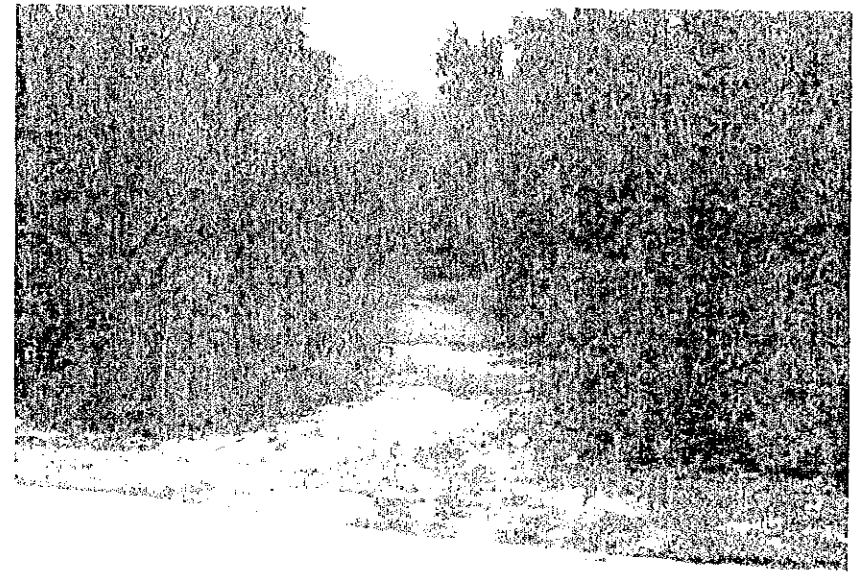






Proposed location for access control.

Main access into conservation area on Dove Creek Dr.
just past its intersection with Caribbean Avenue.



Proposed location for access control.

Secondary access road into the Dove Creek
conservation area from Caribbean Avenue.



Dove Creek Conservation Area

Debris dumped along Dove Creek Drive in the area
proposed for closure to vehicular access.



Dove Creek Conservation Area

Debris dumped along trail leading from Dove Creek
Drive to the ocean.



Dove Creek Conservation Area

Trails, depressions, and damage to substrate and vegetation by ATVs and other vehicles.



Harris Park Neighborhood Association , Inc.
38 East Beach Road
Tavernier, Florida 33070



November 21, 2002

President
Mary Lou Wilkinson

Vice President
Jerry Wilkinson

Secretary
Rosemary Olds

Treasury
Katy Yates

TRUSTEES

Ruth Hindelang

Jane Wulle

Art Baker

Denise Nedimyer

Laurie McHargue:
Growth Management
2798 Overseas Highway
Marathon, FL 33050

Dear Ms. McHargue:

At a noticed but informal joint Harris Park Neighborhood and Crime Watch meeting conducted in Harry Harris Park on October 27, 2002 the below listed residents discussed and approved the proposed restricting of vehicular traffic to all entrances to conservation land from any road of Harris Park subdivisions.

Per your telecom we advised and they approved bollards or devices which would allow foot traffic, dog walking, etc. while not totally blocking access to foot traffic

The group noted many and repeated un-necessary ATV, go-cart, motorcycle, dumping, and other environmental damaging and nuisance incidents.

The following attended this meeting:

William Roberts, Bernice Chasteen, Donald Sewell, Chris Gardner, Robert and Deborah Brown, Sandra Fuchs, Carol Smith, Mary Lou and Jerry Wilkinson. Monroe County Deputy Don Fanelli of the sheriff's department was also present for Crime Watch.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Wilkinson, President
Jerry Wilkinson, Neighborhood Crime Watch Coordinator

